

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-53. Canceled.

54. (Currently Amended) A medical device to treat the heart, comprising:
a cardiac harness formed from a metallic material and ~~being~~ is self-sizing to provide a continuous compressive force on the heart of less than 3 mm Hg throughout a cardiac cycle;
the cardiac harness sized to cover at least a portion of the heart; and
the cardiac harness being compressible to be implanted about the heart minimally invasively.

55. (Cancel)

56. (Previously Pending) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the cardiac harness is elastic and has a deformed shape and a recovered shape when a load is applied and removed respectively.

57. (Previously Pending) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the cardiac harness is compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access between the patient's ribs.

58. (Previously Pending) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the cardiac harness is compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access subcostally.

59. (Previously Pending) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the cardiac harness is compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access percutaneously through the skin.

60. (Currently Amended) A medical device for treating the heart, comprising:
a cardiac harness having a pattern of metallic material for applying a compressive force on the heart, the cardiac harness having a compliance expressed in terms of the pressure the harness applies to the heart; and

the pattern configured ~~to apply pressure on the heart so that the compliance of the cardiac harness is in the range of compliance of the native pericardium to provide a~~ continuous compressive force on the heart of less than 3 mm Hg throughout a cardiac cycle.

61. (Cancel)

62. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim ~~61~~ 60, wherein the cardiac harness has a compressed configuration for delivery to the heart by minimally invasive access, and an enlarged configuration wherein the cardiac harness is mounted on the heart and applies the pressure.

63. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 62, wherein the compliance of the cardiac harness is adapted to exert sufficient pressure to cause the heart to reverse remodel.

64. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 63, wherein as the heart reverse remodels, the pressure exerted by the cardiac harness on the heart decreases.

67. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the metallic material is ~~Nitinol~~[®] a nickel-titanium alloy.

68. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the cardiac harness comprises interconnected rows of hinge elements.

69. (Currently Amended) A medical device to treat the heart, comprising:
a cardiac harness having interconnected rows of metallic hinge elements
that are self-sizing to provide a continuous compressive force on the heart of less than 3
mm Hg throughout a cardiac cycle;

the cardiac harness being sized to cover at least a portion of the heart; and
the cardiac harness being compressible to be implanted about the heart
minimally invasively.

70. (Cancel)

71. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 69, wherein the
cardiac harness is elastic and has a deformed shape and a recovered shape when a load is
applied and removed respectively.

72. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 69, wherein the
cardiac harness is compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive
access between the patient's ribs.

73. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 69, wherein the
cardiac harness is compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive
access subcostally.

74. (Cancel)

75. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 69, wherein the
cardiac harness has a compliance adapted to exert sufficient pressure to cause the heart to
reverse remodel.

76. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 75, wherein as the
heart reverse remodels, the pressure exerted by the cardiac harness on the heart decreases.